

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 1683

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: FLANK SECURITY: SPC MEETING MARCH 25

REF: A) STATE 62411; B) USNATO 1626 DTG 241742Z MAR 75

1. AT MARCH 25 SPC MEETING, ITALIAN REP (CIARRAPICO) AGAIN STRONGLY DEFENDED ITALIAN FORMULATION ON FLANK SECURITY, WHICH SEEKS TO DEFINE THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WHERE U.S. AND SOVIET TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM NGA COULD NOT REDEPLOY.

2. FRG REP (HOYNCK), ON PERSONAL BASIS, SUGGESTED AN ALTERNATIVE TO PRESENT BELGIAN AND ITALIAN FORMULATIONS: ACCEPTING THE BELGIAN SECRET

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FORMULATION FOR USE WITH THE EAST, AND SPECIFYING AT A LATER DATE THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WHERE REDEPLOYMENT OF WITHDRAWN FORCES WOULD BE PROHIBITED. TURKISH REP (GUR) SIAD HE CONSIDERED FRG REP'S

SUGGESTION A GOOD ONE.

3. U.S. REP (MOORE) SAID HE THOUGHT BELGIAN AND ITALIAN FORMULATIONS STATED WELL THE CHOICE THE SPC NEEDS TO MAKE, AND HE HOPED SPC COULD ARRIVE AT A CONSENSUS ON ONE OF THESE TWO FORMULATIONS, RATHER THAN EXPANDING THE FIELD TO INCLUDE STILL OTHER APPROACHES. HE NOTED THAT THE U.S. OF COURSE SUPPORTS THE BELGIAN FORMULATION, WHICH AVOIDS THE DANGERS OF PRECISELY SPECIFYING THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT BELGIAN FORMULATION WAS NOW SPC'S BEST CHANCE FOR EARLY CONSENSUS ON FLANK SECURITY.

4. ITALIAN REP SAID THAT THERE WAS NO URGENCY IN GETTING GUIDANCE ON FLANK SECURITY TO VIENNA. TURKISH REP SAID IT WAS AN URGENT MATTER. THE LATTER SAID ITALY HAD ALWAYS BEEN WITH THE BLANK COUNTRIES ON FLANK SECURITY, UNTIL ITALY DECIDED TO INTRODUCE THE QUESTION OF HUNGARY INTO THE DRAFT GUIDANCE. IT WAS NECESSARY FOR ITALY TO RECONSIDER. HOWEVER, AT HEART, HE WAS WITH ITALY. ITALIAN REP REPLIED THAT HE WAS WITH TURKEY FOR DEFENSE OF THE FLANKS, BUT APRIL 10 PLENARY IN VIENNA WAS NOT AN URGENT DEADLINE, AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONSIDER FLANK SECURITY IN BROADER PERSPECTIVE.

5. NEXT SPC MEETING ON FLANK SECURITY SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 3.

6. COMMENT: ITALIANS AT THIS MEETING CONTINUED THEIR HARD LINE IN DEFENSE OF ITALIAN FORMULATION, DESPITE CLEAR SHIFT IN SPC TOWARD BELGIAN FORMULATION AT PREVIOUS MEETING. SIX COUNTRIES AND MC REP HAVE EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR BELGIAN FORMULATION, WITH TURKISH REP IN POSITION OF "PRO-BELGIAN FORMULATION" NEUTRALITY. GREECE AND UK ON ONE OCCASION SINCE RESUMPTION OF SPC DEBATE SAID THEY STILL SUPPORT ITALIAN FORMULATION, AND HAVE SINCE REMAINED SILENT. FRG HAS NOT STATED SUPPORT FOR ITALIAN FORMULATION SINCE RESUMPTION OF SPC DEBATE. NO ONE HAS ARGUED IN FAVOR OF THE ITALIAN FORMULATION EXCEPT THE ITALIANS. MISSION WAS NOT ABLE TO MAKE THE DEMARCHE AUTHORIZED BY REF A SECRET

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AT HIGH LEVEL IN ITALIAN DELEGATION PRIOR TO THIS MEETING DUE TO PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS, BUT WILL DO SO SHORTLY.

7. FRG REP HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THE FRG SUGGESTION IN PARA 2 ABOVE WAS ACTUALLY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS. HE SAID THIS SUGGESTION ALSO EXTENDS TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE BELGIAN FORMULATION, WHILE LEAVING OPEN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WOULD BE SPECIFIED AT A LATER DATE, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT BRING THIS POINT OUT IN HIS REMARKS TO SPC. HE WAS AWARE OF RUTH CONVERSATION IN ACDA, AND SAID FRG UNDERSTANDS THE U.S. POSITION, BUT "CANNOT ABANDON TOO SUDDENLY" THE SUPPORTERS OF THE ITALIAN FORMULATION.

8. THE QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHAT ATTITUDE U.S. SHOULD TAKE IF ITALY CONTINUES TO INSIST ON THE ITALIAN FORMULATION. MISSION NOTES THAT U.S. IS NOW IN RELATIVELY GOOD POSITION ON FLANK SECURITY, SINCE THE U.S. SUPPORTS AN ADEQUATE FORMULATION, WITH A CLEAR MAJORITY, AND IS NOT IN A SITUATION OF CONFRONTATION WITH TURKEY.

9. ONE POSSIBLE U.S. COURSE WOULD BE TO SUPPORT THE BELGIAN FORMULATION PER PARAS 14-17 OF REF B FOR USE WITH THE OTHER SIDE, WITH THE INTERNAL ALLIED UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS DID NOT FORECLOSE REOPENING WITHIN THE ALLIANCE AT A LATER DATE THE QUESTION OF SPECIFYING THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS. NAC APPROVAL OF THE BELGIAN FORMULATION WOULD NOT IN ANY EVENT COMPLETELY PRECLUDE A COUNTRY FROM LATER REOPENING THE QUESTION OF SPECIFYING GEOGRAPHIC AREAS, AND A U.S. POSITION ALONG THESE LINES WOULD FURTHER DEMONSTRATE U.S. INTEREST IN FLANK SECURITY, AND PERHAPS GIVE ITALY A WAY TO BACK AWAY FROM ITS PRESENT POSITION.

10. ON THE OTHER HAND, CURRENT SPC DEBATE HAS INCREASED THE SUPPORT FOR A GENERAL FORMULATION, AND THE IDEA OF SPECIFYING THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS IS NOW DISTINCTLY A MINORITY VIEWPOINT. THUS, IF ITALY REMAINS FIRM RE ITS FORMULATION, THE U.S. MAY PREFER NOT TO SEND GUIDANCE TO AHG WHICH SIMPLY POSTPONES THE ALLIED DECISION ON WHETHER TO SPECIFY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS, BUT RATHER TO SUPPORT ANOTHER PERIOD OF REFLECTION. THIS WOULD AFFORD MORE TIME TO WORK WITH ITALIANS ON WAYS TO MEET THEIR CONCERNS. MISSION PREFERS THIS COURSE, AND WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS. PEREZ
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